

# The Canadian Engineer

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## The Canadian Engineer

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Editor—E. A. JAMES, B.A. Sc.

Business Manager—JAMES J. SALMOND.

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HEAD OFFICE: 62 Church Street, and Court Street, Toronto  
TELEPHONE MAIN 7404.

Montreal Office: B 32 Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Business and Editorial Representative. Phone M 2797.

Winnipeg Office: 330 Smith Street. G. W. Goodall, Business and Editorial Representative.

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### SMOKE CONSUMER QUESTION.

Twenty-two residents of Dewson Street, Toronto, have sent in a petition to the Board of Education, protesting against the nuisance of smoke and soot from the burning of soft coal in Dewson Street School.

How long will Toronto allow the smoke by-law to remain a dead letter? Here is a splendid chance for the City Commissioner. Let him enforce the by-law and compel the city to do that which they require of others—or else recommend the repeal of the by-law. Has he the courage to do either?

### A NEW DEPARTMENT

That we may more fully serve the best interests of our readers we are opening a new department; a department for Contractors' Supplies.

To know where to look for what you want, to know where to dispose of what you don't want will surely be a great convenience. Our new department will fully answer these requirements. No body of men require different classes of machinery and equipment so frequently as the engineering-contractor. Each separate piece of work, if to give the best returns, requires special machinery. At the completion of the work the machinery is in good condition, but is not required. Your fellow contractor requires it. Let him know where he may secure it.

You require special equipment. This department will enable you to get in touch quickly with reliable men who wish to dispose of that which you require. Whether a buyer or a seller you will find this new department an aid to business.

### FUEL FOR CANADA.

Periodically the question of our future fuel supply becomes a subject of discussion. Some years ago the peat beds of Canada were explored, and great promise was made for peat as a competitor of coal and wood, both for heating purposes and the generating of steam. More recently we have heard much of the "white coal." Electricity, generated at our waterfalls, was to turn machinery and heat our homes, and our supply of coal and wood was to be conserved. But the development of water powers has been slow. Again, our attention has been called to the peat beds. The Department of Mines for Canada have secured a valuable report by Mr. E. Nystrom on methods to be adopted in developing the peat and lignite industries of Canada.

The coal areas of Canada are either at the extreme east or the extreme west. The great central area of Canada, which contains the large centres of population, is without coal beds. But it does possess many large peat bogs. Ontario alone is said to have eleven thousand square miles of peat beds eight feet thick, Quebec half as much, Manitoba some five hundred square miles, while Alberta and Saskatchewan will have, including lignite, as large deposits as the three mentioned Provinces.

A peat bog of an average depth of six feet will yield 774,000 tons of peat per square mile, and when it is remembered that 1.8 tons of peat are equal to one ton of coal one can readily see the value of our peat deposits. In the past, in Canada, the gathering of peat has been expensive. The designing of suitable machinery to work over the bogs has been difficult. After the peat is gathered the next expensive process is the drying. Air-drying has been found to be the cheapest and most practical method, and by this method the moisture in the peat fuel is reduced to 25 per cent., and under very favorable conditions lower. For the convenient and economical handling of the peat it is pressed into briquettes. This in the past has been a source of trouble—a trouble, however, that experience and experiment are